

## **Why We Need Sustainable Living.**

Currently human beings are destroying the world - or more accurately the bio-sphere, the thin skin of life on the surface of the Earth. I have estimated that if one gathered all the living things on the Earth and reduced them to a paste which was spread over the entire surface the layer would only be about 10cms thick and most of this layer would be plant matter. Living things are actually spread throughout a much thicker layer though most is within 30 metres above the surface of the land and only about 1 metre below the land surface. In the sea life is spread right to the bottom of the sea but there is very little compared with the amount of water. (If you instantly measured how much living matter there was in a column of water to the bottom of the sea on average you would find very little. You might have the odd fish a quantity of plankton a few bacteria and some sea weed, but it would not amount to much compared with a real lot of water.)

Nature/life forms an incredibly subtle and intricate eco-system to support the huge variety of living things that exist. In this system one thing lives off another, balances are maintained between the various different life forms and everything is constantly and almost totally recycled. This system operates to sustain itself over aeons. Over even longer periods of time things do change - new species arise and old ones die out - and the atmosphere and the temperature changes. But these changes occur very slowly giving living things time to adapt.

Human beings have, and are, disrupting the natural world. We interfere with the balance of nature. We are wiping out species at a rate that is enormous compared with the natural rate. We are spreading chemical toxins throughout the system at a rate with which the natural processes for re-cycling cannot cope. Now, and critically, we are changing the composition of the atmosphere and in consequence the average temperature of the Earth at a rate that is much too rapid for living things to adapt. It is reality that human beings do not fit into the natural balance and are disrupting and destroying that balance.

That realisation gives a measure of how fragile the natural world is. When we concrete over an area we enormously reduce the amount of life in that piece of the world.

Hello